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517.62

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of
Williams et al.

Serial No.: 09/963751

Filed: September 26, 2001

For: **Method for Treating Hog and Animal
Waste**

Attorney's Docket No: 4841-001

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Patent Pending

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Examiner: Peter A. Hrusko

)
Group Art Unit: 1724

Raleigh, North Carolina
August 19, 2003

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION MAILED MARCH 19, 2003

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating animal waste, comprising:
 - removing animal waste from an animal confinement area;
 - passing the animal waste to a holding tank;
 - mixing an alkaline composition with the animal waste in the holding tank to create a waste mixture;
 - removing ammonia from the holding tank;
 - transferring the waste mixture to a solids separator;
 - separating the waste mixture into solids and a liquid; and
 - after separating the solids, returning the liquid to the animal confinement area for reuse; and
 - continuously flushing the animal confinement area by directing the returned liquid through the animal confinement area.

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Signature: Kathy L. Stehle

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Date: 8/19/03